



Dog sleds across Mary's Harbour, Labrador

Photo by Joey Jenkins

A SHARED Future Bi-Monthly Update

Greetings A SHARED Future affiliates and friends! We wish you continued wellness amidst the changing seasons.

If you have any big news, a conference or funding announcements you would like to share, or if you are interested in getting involved in A SHARED Future, you can contact Marc Calabretta at marc.calabretta@queensu.ca.

ASF Connect: Amy Hudson

This month, we spoke with Amy Hudson, Governance and Strategic Planning Lead with the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) and Negotiator at NCC's Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination Table.

Amy is also a recent PhD graduate of the Interdisciplinary Program at Memorial University, having defended her thesis [*Reclaiming Inuit Governance: Planning for a Sustainable Future in NunatuKavut*](#). Amy has also had her work [published in the journal Sustainability](#), and has a book chapter in press, "Reclaiming Inuit Governance and Revitalizing Autonomy in NunatuKavut" in *The Inuit World*, part of the Routledge Worlds Series.

We chatted with Amy about her research and work she does to strengthen research autonomy in NunatuKavut.

Hi Amy, thank you for taking the time to speak with us about the work and research you do with the NCC. Could you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I'm from a small, remote island community off the southeast coast of Labrador in NunatuKavut, called Black Tickle. I was born and raised there on the lands of my Inuit ancestors. I come from Inuit and European ancestry on both my maternal and paternal sides of my family. I work with the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC), which is the Inuit governing organization that represents Inuit from NunatuKavut.



Amy Hudson, Governance and Strategic Planning Lead, NunatuKavut Community Council

I have held various roles within the NCC and each of them involved in research; In 2016, I identified the need for a Research Department to support the research interests and needs of our people. This was further supported and established by NCC and I then led the development and growth of the department. Prior to this, there was no research department in our organization and research took place 'off the side of the desk'. Since the department's establishment, we have been expanding our research portfolio (we have a fantastic and skilled team in place),

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increasing our capacity and expertise, and have developed a comprehensive research governance protocol that informs how research takes place in NunatuKavut.

During my time as Director of Research at the NCC, my focus was on building upon the research ethics process that had already been in place, and further establishing—with community, while learning from other Indigenous scholarship in the field—research governance protocols so that research on our lands and with our people are beneficial and respect our culture and place on our lands, waters, and ice. The governance protocol that we now have really reflects the way we understand that research should be conducted on Inuit lands, led primarily by Inuit, where research should serve to uphold the continued survival and preservation of both culture and community. We've begun to establish and foster deeper relationships with various stakeholders and other academic institutions through this work as well. So, the Department that didn't exist prior to 2016 is now leading research in diverse areas like Inuit research methods, governance, renewable energy, and water security—all areas that reflect community interests, needs, and priorities.

You recently successfully defended your thesis—congratulations! Can you tell us more about your research?

I did my PhD in the Interdisciplinary Program at Memorial University in the area of Inuit governance and sustainability planning, with a focus on Inuit and Indigenous research methods. I was doing my PhD research while working with the NCC as Director of the Department of Research, Education, and Culture. So, as I was reviewing existing research ethics protocols and developing new ones, and participating in research within our communities, my research was helping to guide and inform a strength-based research governance protocol for NunatuKavut.

To speak a little about process, as part of my doctoral research and my work with the NCC, we led a Community Governance and Sustainability Initiative (CGSI), resulting in multiple sustainability gatherings that brought people together to ensure that the work we were doing

reflected community interests. We also held a research summit in March 2020 that hosted our community members, as well as academics from across Canada. This is where we disseminated some of our research findings and the knowledge that we had been sharing over the past few years. We released our governance protocol during the summit. My PhD research, and our participation in renewable energy and other research at the time, all done in collaboration with NunatuKavut Inuit, really helped to shape the way that research is now done in NunatuKavut. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our knowledge and capacity in research governance—and this will come with more experiences and partnerships in research.



Community Sustainability Working Group members during a sustainability gathering, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL. Photo courtesy of NCC

Can you tell us a little bit more about your research findings?

Throughout the work of the CGSI, a facet of my doctoral research, I worked primarily with three pilot communities within our territory: Black Tickle, St. Lewis, and Norman Bay. What we found was Inuit knowledge, perspectives, and science are integral to planning for a sustainable future on our lands and sustainability is understood rather holistically. Inuit expressed that they are best positioned to make decisions that impact them and their communities. Throughout this research, there were a range of needs and priorities identified across the territory, from food insecurity, heat insecurity, to infrastructure challenges which can exacerbate these insecurities. This research helped to illustrate ways that Inuit can lead and participate in sustainability planning on their own lands

as it led to a culturally relevant sustainability planning framework. We also took a strength-based approach to engaging community members in talking about what community sustainability looks like for them and how we can get there. We did asset mapping and vision exercises and what we ended up with was helping to establish a process for identifying culturally relevant sustainability needs within our territory. We found that heat insecurity was a big issue in some areas of our territory, a discussion that was embedded in themes of autonomy and self-determination. This really came out by doing research with A SHARED Future (Dr. Debbie Martin) and with Dr. Nick Mercer around renewable energy. These collaborative research projects have helped us gain better understandings of community acceptance of renewable energy and the vision that communities have for it in the future. I think we've learned a lot of good lessons that can inform commercial or other energy developments in our territory.

The A SHARED Future Project you Co-Lead with Debbie Martin has shifted from a focus on renewable energy and transitioning off diesel, to a focus on overall energy security. Can you tell us a bit more about this shift?

The project had to be responsive to and reflect the will and interests of the communities, and by and large community members were not interested in having a discussion about fully displacing diesel. We're cognizant and concerned for the preservation and conservation of lands and resources, but in the context of our territory, economic development opportunities are restricted and diesel plants afford consistent and decent paying jobs to people in almost every community. We live in some pretty harsh climatic and geographically challenging conditions and diesel has proven a fairly consistent and reliable source of energy. I think people understand that a hybrid model is probably what is going to work best in the future. People want to do their part to sustain the environment and to mitigate against the impacts of climate change, but it has to be done in ways that do not create egregious harm or discomfort to communities and families. Debbie and the ASF team have been supportive of our

research governance protocols and are open to working with our communities in ways that make sense for us. Throughout our research, people were open to exploring various renewable energy options and are eager to participate in feasibility assessments, and some are doing this through partnerships with A SHARED Future, as well as Natural Resources Canada's Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative. We're also partnering with other internal departments within the NCC to install some renewable energy options in our communities, such as solar panels, heat efficiency, and retrofitting projects to meet people's needs. The spin off effect of this has been quite large and we are seeing a flurry of activity around this work in two of our pilot communities, Black Tickle and St. Lewis. So, stay tuned for some developments on these fronts!



*Sustainability Summit,
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL.
Photo courtesy of NCC*

We have heard about a community firewood program that is preparing for launch in NunatuKavut. Can you tell us a bit more about this?

The Community Firewood Program has been rolled out for the first time in Black Tickle. This program addresses heat security issues, which are a significant concern in this community. The wood supplied to households in Black Tickle was really valued this winter, given that there is no fuel and gas provider there anymore, there is no road that connects the community to other communities, and the closest fuel and gas provider is about two hours away on skidoo. So, diesel is used for electricity purposes, while homes are heated on wood and/or fuel. Some homes now have been slowly converting to electric heat, but that has not been a favoured alternative in the past given

concerns about growing inflation rates and costs and it's just a type of heat that is not common to the community. So, wood continues to serve as a vital energy source for Black Tickle.

What are your hopes for energy security in NunatuKavut now and in the future?

I hope for and envision a space where the research we've done continues to support energy decision making in our territory, while also reflecting the interest and will of our people. I do research, first and foremost, for the survival of our people in our communities, and so I hope that the research can be used and will be used to that end. Going back to self-determination and autonomy, I hope that any transitions and movements made towards furthering energy security in our territory really reflect the vision and goals of our people, to remain happy, healthy, and safe on the lands of our ancestors. That is paramount—that people continue and are able to continue—to not only live on their homelands, but to thrive. And of course, I look forward to continued and great research partnerships like with the folks at A SHARED Future.

Project Updates

Here is what Project Leads had to about their respective projects:

Advancing Culturally Relevant Gender Based Analysis in Indigenous Research on Renewable Energy Futures and Health

Co-Leads: Jeff Masuda, Jaisie Walker and Tiffany Walsh

Project Assistant: Carlos Sánchez
Advisory Committee: Programmatic Steering Committee

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned

Update: In our previous update, we thanked Hollie Sabourin for her outstanding contributions to our team, and welcomed both Jaisie Walker, Senior Researcher, and Tiffany Walsh, Senior Policy Advisor in Culturally Relevant Gender-Based Analysis, as our new collaborators. We were thrilled to receive significant feedback on the draft paper that reflects on A SHARED Future's

ongoing learning in regard to implementing Indigenous gender-based analysis into our research projects. Carlos and Jeff are working towards implementing everyone's comments and we hope to share a second draft soon.

Towards Energy Security in NunatuKavut

Co-Leads: Debbie Martin, Amy Hudson.
Current Status: Proceeding as planned

Update: A lot of our research activities continue to be in a holding pattern due to the pandemic. The team is still hoping to organize another Energy Summit once COVID restrictions lift. Meanwhile, Co-Lead, Amy Hudson, team member Nick Mercer, and Debbie have submitted an abstract for a book chapter, tentatively titled "Decolonizing Energy Development in NunatuKavut". Stay tuned for more details about this exciting output from the team!

Bras d'Or Lakes CEPI

Co-Leads: Mary Beth Doucette, Lisa Young, and Stan Johnson

Project Assistant: Carolyn Barber
Advisory Committee: Elder Albert Marshall and Cheryl Bartlett

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned

Update: The ASF-CEPI project team is completing their summary report which will bring this part of the project to a close. The report will be presented to the CEPI Management Committee in April. Carolyn completes her work on the project on April 12. We will miss her and look forward to working together again. CBU student, Trinity Nicholas continues to assist with project tasks.

Wonderful news! In partnership with Lisa Young and UINR, Mary Beth has been awarded a SSHRC Partnership Engagement Grant on the topic of "Exploring the goal of Net-Zero in Unama'ki". The grant will fund graduate students who will a) produce a scoping review of net-zero target initiatives and b) produce an environmental scan of organizations located in Unama'ki/Cape Breton that are leading initiatives with targets to reduce carbon emissions. The research will culminate in dialogue sessions with SME's and local energy project administrators, around the

possibility of collaboratively setting targets and appropriate measures for Unama'ki.

Gikino'amaagewin Wiigwaam (Teaching Lodge): Supporting M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre's Leadership on Land Stewardship and Urban Climate Transition in Owen Sound/Saugeen Ojibway Territory

Co-Leads: Paul Nadjiwan, Karen Houle, and Jeff Masuda

Team Members: Diane Giroux, Renee Abram, Diana Lewis, Carlos Sánchez, Erica Shardlow

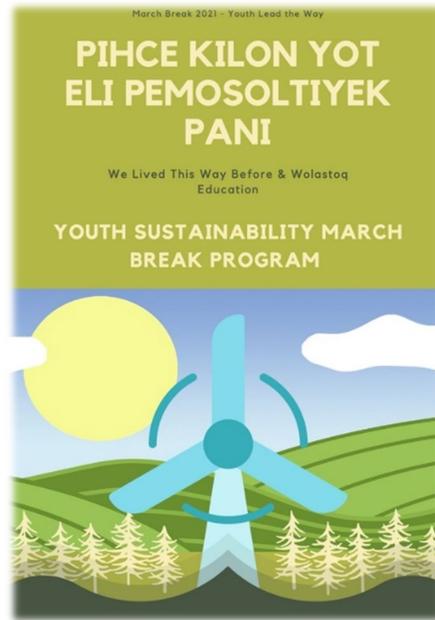
Advisory Committee: Theresa O'Connor, Susan Staves Schank, Hillary Trudeau, Ron Root, Shane Chegahno, Nick Saunders, Shari Huber, Anne Marie Shaw, Victoria Serda and Helen Doyle

Current Status: Preparing to launch the project in spring 2021

Update: We are happy to announce the imminent launch of our Community Art Challenge - a community engagement and relationship building activity that helps to renew our momentum as the pandemic carries on. The amendment to our original ethics protocol was approved by Queen's University's General Research Ethics Board on March 24th, 2021. On a similar note, Karen, Diane, Jeff, Erica and Carlos went through the first module of the Indigenous Cultural Competency Training of the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) on March 8th and 9th. Participation in this training was part of the OFIFC ethics review process that our team approved back in March 2020. The next step for the Community Art Challenge is recruiting Indigenous art mentors and matching them with urban Indigenous community members who wish to participate in the challenge.

At the same time, our team is preparing an application to be submitted by M'Wikwedong to a federal program called the Healthy Communities Initiative. We seek to fund the infrastructure component of the Gikino'amaagewin Wiigwaam (Teaching Lodge) project. The idea is to build a fully accessible gazebo-like structure that is capable of operating year-round. The facility will be designed for sharing traditional Indigenous knowledge

on land stewardship as a way to centre M'Wikwedong's leadership in climate action. Our team is prioritizing using our capacity to support this initiative, with Carlos taking the lead writing role, Paul liaising with a potential developer, Diane helping get letters of support from community partners, Karen taking care of taking photographs that will illustrate the application, and Renee, Erica and Jeff are providing input into the application package. The second round of applications will open in May 2021, and our team hopes to submit a complete application by then.



Youth sustainability March break program, Tobique First Nation

We Lived This Way Before - Tobique First Nation

Co-Leads: Diana Lewis and Tanna Pirie-Wilson.

Research Assistant: Serena Mendizabal

Project Coordinator: Jennifer Sappier

Advisory Committee: Elder Ramona Nicholas, Laura Turnbull (Sex and Gender Project Co-Champion), Asha Bear (Youth)

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned

Update: In early March, our research team hosted *Pihce Kilon Yot Eli Pemosolтийek Pani - We Lived This Way Before* Youth Sustainability March Break Program. Developed by Asha Bear, Katie Russell, and Serena Mendizabal around 20 kids ages 5-10 took part in all kinds of activities over 5 days - learning about carbon footprint, climate change, hydropower,

and how the wind can generate enough energy to power houses. The youth took part in activities such as, make it yourself hydro dam, virtual tour of a hydro dam, reusable bottle making to help fight climate change, climate change bingo and climate board game. The students also got to build their own windmill in an effort to make light from popsicle sticks, mini cups, a little hobby motor, and of course, a light bulb!

Our guest speakers were, Deana Sappier (Climate Change Committee), Alan Tremblay (local elder) and the guest speaker Amy from Natural Forces. It was a resounding success, and the girls are looking forward to future programming this summer and beyond.

From the Ocean Floor to the Mountaintop: Using the Renewable Energy of Mother Earth to Grow Food

Co-Leads: Hannah Tait Neufeld and Chief Gordon Planes

Project Assistant: Brianna Poirier

Advisory Committee: TBD

Current Status: Project on hold

Update: The project continues to be slow going as Chief Gordon and T'Sou-ke Nation continue their ongoing responsibilities related to COVID -19. Hannah and Brianna are awaiting approval from Council to move ahead with the manuscript that was prepared based on the results of the sharing circles held in the community in late 2019. Brianna has submitted a manuscript to the *AlterNative Journal* based on her application and experience with CBPR as a Master's student on the project. The Ladybug Garden and Greenhouse is under new management this spring and some restorative work is underway to increase food production for the community this growing season. As soon as research travel is permitted again, Hannah plans to return to T'Sou-ke to complete the planned data collection and discuss future funding plans with community leaders.

Working Towards Energy Security, Self-Determination, and Reconciliation: A Collaborative Analysis of Natural Resources Canada's Off Diesel Initiative

Project Lead: Heather Castleden

Manager: Derek Kornelsen

Advisory Committee: Naatoi'lhkpiakii (Melissa Quesnelle), Ken Paul, Diana Lewis, Siobhan Slade, Vince Robinson

Current Status: Proceeding as planned

Update: Over the past year, the research team has met with IODI awardees and the Research Advisory Committee on a number of occasions to discuss key themes emerging from the data collected so far as well as to collaboratively determine next steps. Currently, we are continuing conversations with IODI awardees to identify the key messages that are deemed most important as we work toward developing publications from our first round of data collection and to determine who the target audiences for these messages/publications ought to be. We continue to work toward the next phase of this project which includes conducting interviews with representatives from provincial and territorial governments and utility

companies regarding their perceptions and policies related to reconciliation, Indigenous rights, and Indigenous-led clean energy projects. Ongoing discussions with IODI awardees will also provide opportunities for input regarding the content of the interview questions as well as which representatives ought to be approached.

Indigenous Women in Renewable Energy (I-WIRE)

Co-Leads: Naatoi'lhkpiakii (Melissa Quesnelle) and Heather Castleden

Advisory Committee: Barbara Dumont-Hill, Tanna Pirie-Wilson

Current Status: We are on pause at this time, while both Co-Leads are pulled in other directions. We plan to re-start our data analysis and film development in the spring, with a second gathering in late 2021, if permissible.

Exploring Relations, Experience, and Ways of Knowing in an Interdisciplinary Cross-Cultural Program of Research

Lead: Sara Rotz (York University)

Project Assistant: Johnathan Rose

Advisory Committee: Simon Brascoupe and Cheryl Bartlett

Current Status: Project proceeding as planned.

Update: Sarah and JR have submitted their draft manuscript, entitled Toward Intersectional and Culturally Relevant Sex and Gender Analysis in Canadian Health Research, to a peer-reviewed journal and are awaiting feedback. Sarah and Mary Beth have also been in conversation with the Programmatic Steering Committee to discuss writing a piece that connects some of the Institutional Ethnography work in context with the CEPI research project and ASF program as a whole. Stay tuned for more exciting developments on this front!

Recent Publications

Reconciliation through renewable energy? A survey of Indigenous communities, involvement, and peoples in Canada

Indigenous communities' participation in renewable energy presents a pathway for reconciliation, climate change mitigation, and a just energy transition. However, some Indigenous communities in Canada have had mixed experiences participating in renewable energy developments. The newly published article by Christina Hoicka, Katarina Savic, and Alicia Campney (York University) in *Energy Research & Social Science* explores whether, and to what extent, community energy relates to elements of participation associated with reconciliation, including a deep engagement processes, collective and local benefits, and as equity ownership. [Read the full article here.](#)

Scaling up: Renewable energy on Aboriginal lands in North-West Australia

Brad Riley and his team at the Nulungu Research Institute (University of Notre Dame Australia) have released a report examining the trajectory of a transition to renewable energy at the remote, small, and large scale. The report calls for prioritizing the participation and economic inclusion of Indigenous land-owners in large scale projects, while also examining the self-determined efforts taking place on smaller, more localized levels. [You can read the full report here.](#)

Solar infrastructure as media of resistance, or, Indigenous solarities against settler colonialism

The ongoing history of settler colonialism is inextricable from the infrastructures of energy and extraction that provide its material foundation. Jordan Kinder's recently published article in *South Atlantic Quarterly* explores how Indigenous solarities in Canada resist extractivism and generate conditions for just energy futures beyond settler colonialism through emergent solar infrastructures. [You can read the full abstract and find the article here.](#)

Upcoming Events

All-In All-Together Spring Webinar

The All-In: Co-Creating Knowledge for Justice conference has been postponed due to COVID-19. However, the community is continuing the conversation through their virtual dialogue series. The group will be hosting a webinar on May 7 from 11:00-1:00pm (PST), entitled *Seizing the Pandemic Portal: Transforming Universities for Community Engaged Scholarship* to discuss how we can seize the moment to help transform universities, in the post-pandemic world, to be truly powerful partners in co-creating knowledge for justice. [Click here to register and learn more.](#)

AQUA≈360: Water for All – Emerging Issues & Innovations Virtual Conference

This virtual gathering of internationally leading scientists, engineers, planners, and practitioners will provide an exciting opportunity to discuss and showcase cutting edge water management research and technical, institutional, modelling, planning, and community driven social and policy innovations. The conference runs from August 31 to September 2, 2021. [Click here to register and learn more.](#)

In the News

Micro Hydropower : Turbulent Turbines

Hydropower has been with us for millennia, but the 20th Century race to build huge, centralised hydropower dams in many parts of the world has caused adverse environmental damage. Now, a new micro-hydropower technology is working with the natural flow of water and wildlife, rather than against it, to bring much needed constant baseload power to off grid areas in remote areas of nations around the globe. [Watch the video here to learn more.](#)

Atlin Hydro Expansion Project Advances with Funding and First Nations Support

Taku River Tlingit First Nation in Atlin, B.C. has transitioned their community from diesel reliance to running entirely on hydropower. Now, they are on the cusp of expanding their hydro project, building a transmission line, and selling power to the Yukon grid. [Read more about the transition and the expansion project here.](#)

Indigenous Climate Action: Decolonizing Climate Policy in Canada

Indigenous Climate Action, in collaboration with researchers Dr. Jen Gobby, Rebecca Sinclair, and Rachel Ivey, have released the phase one report of their two-part Decolonizing Climate Policy project in Canada. The report is an in-depth policy analysis that investigates whether climate policy and planning in Canada is inclusive of Indigenous rights and addresses the root causes of climate change. [Read the full phase one report here.](#)

